

# South Dakota National Guard

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## NEWS RELEASE:

### **Breaking down communication barriers**

Tech. Sgt. Quinton Young, 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs  
Maj. Brendan Murphy, SDNG Public Affairs Officer

DAKOTA DUNES, S.D. – An incident as large, complex and challenging as the southeast South Dakota Flood incident along the Missouri River, is a demanding job. Communications experts are required to provide the vital flow of information across vast areas, linking multiple agencies in such historic flooding efforts.

That is where the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) equipment comes into play. The JISCC is a key communications tool that the South Dakota National Guard has deployed to ensure emergency responders and Guard members can effectively communicate with one another.

The JISCC is a mobile unit that fits nicely into an 18-foot trailer and its purpose is to help increase mission efficiency by allowing joint use of voice, data, video and radio assets among local, state and federal agencies involved in the flooding efforts.

“We are providing interoperability between Game Fish and Parks, FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, Customs and Border Patrol, Highway Patrol, Type II and II incident management teams, Sioux Falls Swift Water Rescue, DOT, local sheriffs and many others,” said Staff Sergeant Dave Goodwin, JISCC non-commissioned officer in charge with SDNG’s Joint Force Headquarters, Rapid City.

When large groups of people are working for a common goal, such as fighting a historic flood, communications is usually one of the biggest challenges to face. That is why the SDNG has deployed this key communications asset.

“The JISCC provides equipment to ensure that communication between agencies is maintained at all times,” said Sgt. Michael Reiprich, an information technology specialist with the SDNG’s Joint Force Headquarters, Rapid City.

The Soldiers assigned to the JISCC have the ability to pull up to any situation or location, whether in an established area or in the middle of nowhere, and setup this mobile communications asset complete with a durable satellite dish, a 20 foot by 20 foot tent, generators, lights and a myriad of high-tech equipment.

While discussing the types of equipment being used in supporting the flood efforts, Goodwin said, “We have employed nearly 250 pieces of communications equipment in support of the flooding efforts here, including 211 radios, many cell phones, wi-fi and laptops.

“This job also entails being a communications technician and performing various things such as setting up repeaters and trouble-shooting technical aspects of radio signals,” said Goodwin. “We perform radio checks on a constant basis to ensure all Soldiers, Airmen and civilians have continuous communication.”

The JISCC, and other mobile units like it, are an excellent way for the Guard to keep constant communication in an incident, especially if more than one state is affected. This system provides flexibility and redundancy to those remote areas or places where backup may be necessary.

“All fifty states have at least one JISCC unit, and we can talk to any one of those states if our JISCC and their JISCC is on line via satellite link,” said Reiprich.

“I am very proud to be a part of this and it has been a great learning experience,” said Goodwin. “It is amazing how everyone involved has learned so much and grown professionally. I am proud to be able to accomplish this mission and support the incident management team.”

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**110608-F-UL435-020: DAKOTA DUNES, S.D. -** Sgt. Michael Reiprich, Rapid City, an information technology specialist with South Dakota National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, Rapid City, describes how the ACU 1000 unit provides interoperability between civilian, local, state, federal and military entities, June 8, 2011. (SDNG photo by Tech. Sgt. Quinton Young)



**110608-F-UL435-022:** DAKOTA DUNES, S.D. - Sgt. Michael Reiprich, Rapid City, an information technology specialist with the South Dakota National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, Rapid City, adjusts an antenna provided to the incident management team while 2nd Lt. Billy Boyd, Brookings, network extension platoon leader with the 115th Network Support Company, Brookings, ensures Reiprich safely performs those adjustments, June 8, 2011. (SDNG photo by Tech. Sgt. Quinton Young)



**110613-F-UL435-033:** DAKOTA DUNES, S.D. - Staff Sgt. David Goodwin, Rapid City, the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) non-commissioned officer in charge, with the South Dakota National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, Rapid City, stores equipment into the JISCC trailer they have been providing to the Incident Management team during the southeast South Dakota flood incident, June 13, 2011. The JISCC ensures communication interoperability between civilian, local state and federal agencies and military forces. (SDNG photo by Tech. Sgt. Quinton Young)

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